Status Approach. The main reason for increase in the unemployed persons was that the economy did not grow at the desired rate to provide employment opportunities to all the new entrants to the labour force and the backlog of unemployed.

(c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The Plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A Special Group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth Five Year plan.

(d) No, Sir.

Welfare fund for overseas workers

544. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a welfare fund for the Indian overseas workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the other measures Government are taking or proposed to take to protect interests of the Indian workers abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The constitution of the Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Emigration Act, 1983, provides for safeguarding of interests of Indian workers going overseas for employment on contractual basis. Sporadic complaints regarding delayed payment/non-payment of wages, extra hours of work are received. As and when such complaints are received, Indian Missions and Recruiting Agents are requested/directed to take up the matter with concerned Government/employer to settle the dispute. If the recruiting agent does not comply with the directions, a show-cause notice is issued and if the reply is not found to be justifiable, the license of the recruiting agent is suspended/cancelled.